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Big Machines At Work

Forklifts

By Jean Eick

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On the Job

On the job, forklifts work in lumberyards and warehouses. They stack and unstack heavy loads.

HYSTER
Potlatch
Potlatch
Potlatch
Potlatch

The front of the forklift goes up and down like an elevator. It has two forks, called **lifting prongs**, that can lift heavy loads. The part of the forklift that lifts the prongs up and down is called the **mast**.

Crown Pacific

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EDGE

Up, up goes the front of the forklift. Its lifting prongs line up with a heavy load of lumber that the forklift will lift and load onto a truck.

When the forks are in front of the load, the forklift moves forward. The lifting prongs slide right under the stack of lumber.

Weyerhaeuser
Sturdi-Wood
EDGE

Slowly, the forks lift up the lumber.

Then, the lifting prongs tilt up. This

keeps the heavy load from falling off.

Beep, beep! The forklift backs up.

Down, down comes the heavy load

of lumber.

The forklift slowly backs up toward the truck waiting for the lumber. Then it turns around.

HYSTER
6
XL2
HYSTER

HYSTER
6
XL2
HYSTER

HYSTER
6
XL2
HYSTER

Now the forklift lifts the lumber

again and puts them on the truck.

HYSTER
HYSTER
6
XL2

Beep, beep! The forklift is ready

for another load!

Climb Aboard!

Would you like to sit in the driver's seat? Climb aboard! The forklift's driver is called the **operator**. The operator uses **levers** to control the forklift. Chains pull the lifting prongs up on the mast. When the forklift carries a big load, the operator must back

up to see where the forklift is going!

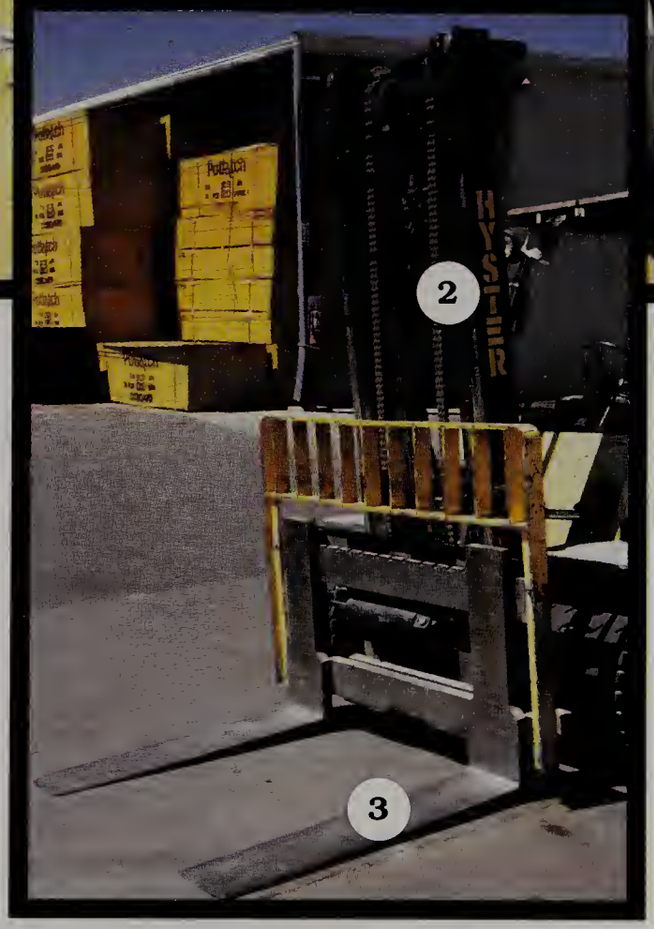
That is because the load blocks the

driver's forward view.

Up Close

1. The operator's seat
2. The chains
3. The lifting prongs
4. The levers
5. The mast

1
4
5
XL2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HYSTER

Glossary

levers (LEV-ers)
A forklift's levers are sticks with round knobs on the end. The operator uses them to control the forklift.

lifting prongs (LIFF-ting prongs)
Lifting prongs are the two forks that go up and down on the front of the forklift.

mast (MAST)
The mast is the front part of the forklift that pulls the forks up and down.

operator (OP-er-ay-ter)
The operator is the person who drives the forklift and makes it work.

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